(c) the action Government have taken on these findings?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry in the Southern Region were covered in the first round of evaluation study (1996-97) of Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) conducted by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), Delhi an autonomous organization under Planning Commission. In the second round of evaluation study conducted in 2000-01, only Andhra Pradesh from southern region was covered and in the third round of the evaluation study condcuted in 2004-05 by IAMR, only Karnataka from the southern region has been covered.

(b) and (c) IAMR has submitted the final report after the third round of the evaluation study on PMRY. Some of the findings in this report are: the eligibility criteria under PMRY have been followed, on an average 1.95 employment per unit was generated, all the beneficiaries who were dusbursed loans by the banks had established their self-employment ventures and about 52 per cent of the beneficiaries invested additional funds from personal resources. An inter-Ministerial Group (including representatives of several States, Banks, etc.) set-up under the Chairmanship of Adviser (VSE), Planning Commission has carried out a detailed and independent review of the design and implementation practices of PMRY and submitted (June 2006) its recommendations for strengthening the Yojana. The main recommendations regarding increase in family income ceiling, porject cost and amount of subsidy have been included in the 'Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises', which has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Govenrment of India in October 2006 to be implemented from 2007-08. This will help in strengthening PMRY and give an impetus to self-employment to educated unemployed youth for establishment of self employment ventures under PMRY.

Printing of MRP on medicines

285. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided capping of trade margin to 15 per cent for wholesalers and 35 per cent for retailers for generic medicines w.e.f. 2nd October, 2006;

(b) whether Pharma Association have also agreed not to charge any additional tax on Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and make it mandatory to printing of MRP inclusive of all taxes on the medicines in future; and

(c) if so, what further steps Government have taken so far to make available other essential drugs at cheaper rates to the consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (b) Pharma companies have agreed to voluntarily restrict the trade margins for generic medicines to 15% for wholesalers and 35% for retailers. However, no formal notification/ order has been issued by the Government in this regard.

Vide S.O. No. 946(E) dated the 26th June, 2006, the Maximum Retail Prmce (MRP) of medicines inclusive of all local taxes has been made effective from the 2nd October, 2006. The batchs manufactured after 2nd October, 2006 are required to carry the MRP inclusive of all taxes.

The drug policies of the Government as amended from time to time are directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the consumers in the country.

Price reduction on drugs

286. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of certain drugs have been reducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether prices of common and everyday use drugs have not been reduced; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Pharma companies have agreed to voluntarily restrict the trade margins for generic medicines to 15% for wholesalers and 35% for retailers. A compilation of the list of 886 such medicines, whose prices have been voluntarily reduced by